

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 96-227-W - ORDER NO. 96-757  
NOVEMBER 1, 1996

IN RE: Application of Wyboo Plantation Utilities, ) ORDER  
Inc. for an Establishment of Water Rates ) ESTABLISHING  
and Charges for Service Area. ) SERVICE AREA  
 ) AND APPROVING  
 ) RATES AND  
 ) CHARGES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of Wyboo Plantation Utilities, Inc. (Wyboo or the Company) for the establishment of a service area and for the establishment of water rates and charges for water service provided to its customers in Clarendon County, South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §58-5-10 (1976) et seq., and 26 S. C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-821 (1976).

Subsequent to the filing of the Application, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Company to cause to be published a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the area affected by the Application, and, also, to furnish by U. S. Mail the same information to the customers of the system. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Application and advised all interested parties desiring to participate in these proceedings of the manner and time in which to file the

appropriate pleadings for participation. No Petitions to Intervene or Protests were received.

A public hearing regarding this matter was held in the Commission's Hearing Room on October 17, 1996 at 2:30 p.m. The Honorable Guy Butler, Chairman, presided. William T. Gregory appeared for the Company and testified. The Commission Staff (the Staff) was represented by F. David Butler, General Counsel.

William T. Gregory testified that Wyboo had been providing water for three years without charge to the approximately sixty (60) customers of the system. The area sought to be established is Wyboo Plantation Subdivision, located on South Carolina Highway 260, 8 miles southeast of Manning, South Carolina in Clarendon County. Mr. Gregory testified that there are two 80 gallon per minute wells, and a 5,000 gallon storage tank, automatic chlorination equipment, and a 6 inch water line network. The capital expenditure was approximately \$218,000. The present system is approved by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for 218 residential homes. A final permit to operate was issued by DHEC to the system on March 23, 1992.

In this proceeding, the Company is requesting approval of a flat monthly rate of \$18.00 for residential homes, and \$10.00 per month for homes with yard irrigation systems for six (6) months out of the year. The witness testified to his belief that the proposed rates are fair and reasonable, considering rates in surrounding areas, and according to the necessary operating expenses. Gregory testified that Wyboo is contracted with Utility

Management Services, which consists of licensed engineers and water and sewer distribution operators to comply with all requirements. Gregory testified that the Company maintains a telephone number for customer service problems that is available 24-hours per day.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Company is a public utility operating in the State of South Carolina and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §58-5-10 et seq. (1976), as amended.

2. The Company provides water service to sixty (60) customers in Wyboo Plantation Subdivision in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

3. The present case is an establishment case, as the Company has not had rates and charges previously established by this Commission. By its Application, the Company requested a monthly rate of \$18.00 for residential homes, and \$10.00 per month for homes with yard irrigation systems for six (6) months per year.

4. An examination of the proposed rates from the Company show that if the Commission grants the rates as proposed that the rates would be reasonable.

5. The rate schedule approved by the Commission herein, and depicted in Appendix A attached hereto and incorporated by reference is appropriate and should be adopted.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §58-5-10(3) (Supp. 1995), the Company is a public utility, and is subject to the regulatory authority of the Commission to supervise and regulate rates and services of the public utilities of the State.

2. Mr. Gregory testified for the Company that he currently serves sixty (60) customers on his water system. The Commission finds and concludes that there is a need for water service in the area of Clarendon County where the Company seeks approval of its service area.

3. The proposed rates as contained in the Application were noticed to the customers of the Company. By its Application, the Company requests the establishment of rates.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

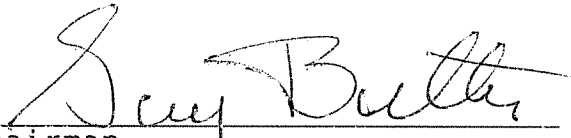
1. The Company is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a water utility in Wyboo Plantation Subdivision in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

2. The schedule of rates and charges as set forth in Appendix A is found to be just and reasonable and is approved for Wyboo Plantation Utilities, Inc., and may be charged for service rendered on or after the date of this Order. The schedule of rates and charges is deemed to be filed with the Commission.

3. The Company shall maintain its books and records for its water operations in accordance with the NARUC System for Accounts for Water Utilities as adopted by this Commission.

4. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)